T-P 2-28-68

Talked with DA in N. O.--Howard

Kennedy assassination probe witness Lawrence Howard Jr. said Tuesday in Los Angeles after returning from New Orleans where he conferred with Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison that Garrison is a "very fine person and sincere in his investigation."

"I now feel he (Garrison) is definitely on to something and the direction of his investigation is the right one," Howard added.

He added he spent four and a half hours talking with Garrison Tuesday "clearing up a number of things," but declined to give details.

Howard, a 32-year-old unemployed welder of El Monte, Calif., successfully fought extradition to Louisiana as a material witness in the probe, but during the past week he announced he'd come to New Orleans voluntarily.

Asked why he changed his mind, Howard said he wanted to clear his name and he felt he should help the investigation if he could.

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M FEBRUARY 27, 1968

Probe Figure Howard Bares Trip to N.O.

(Special to The States-Item)

LOS ANGELES — Lawrence Howard Jr., a witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, told newsmen here last night he had been to New Orleans, talked with Garrison and found him "a very nice man."

Howard was subpenaed as a material witness by Garrison and successfully fought extradition. But he said over the weekend he was coming to New Orleans voluntarily to testify.

Newsmen in New Orleans did not see him at the courthouse yesterday. The DA's office was closed today for Mardi Gras.

Howard told L.A. reporters he used the check Garrison sent him for travel expenses. He did not say whether he would return to New Orleans for a formal grand jury appearance. The grand jury meets Thursday.

Howard said he expects Garrison to "issue a statement in the next few days clearing my name." He had not been accused of any wrongdoing.

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